5   **METHOD FOR USING AN ACCESS CARD TO CREATE**
       A SECURE SUB-NETWORK ON A PUBLIC NETWORK

                          Abstract

10   A method for creating a secure sub-network on a
   public network that includes a set of devices. The
   secure sub-network is to include a subset of devices from
   among the set of devices. An access card is provided
   having a first private key comprised thereon. The access
15 card is scanned to determine the first private key, by
   the subset of devices. A master device is determined
   from among the subset of devices. A second private key
   is selected and a public key is computed based on the
   second private key, by the master device. The second
20 private key is only known to the master device. The
   public key is sent to the set of devices, by the master
   device. A shared encryption key is computed, and an
   encryption is requested of any subsequent messages
   between any of the devices comprising the subset of
25 devices using the shared encryption key.